

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3925

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4543

LIMDIS

EUR/EE FOR SILINS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, CSCE, RO

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON MFN/EMIGRATION: JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: (A) STATE 140393; (B) BUCHAREST 4447

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR INFORMED US TODAY THAT PROJECTION OF JANUARY 1-JUNE 30 DEPARTURES FOR ISRAEL IS 575. ADDITIONAL 400 PERSONS ARE IN SOME STAGE OF PROCESSING, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN NUMBER OF THESE MIGHT NOT RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL OR MIGHT DEFER THEIR DEPARTURE FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

2. WE USED OCCASION TO INQUIRE ABOUT FIGURE OF 50 ISRAELI REFUSALS WHICH AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CITED TO JENKINS AND SCHMIDT. AMBASSADOR TERMED THIS "PROBABLY REALISTIC," INDICATING REFUSALS HAD BEEN HIGHER IN PREVIOUS YEARS. ON QUESTION AS TO WHETHER PATTERN OF REFUSALS HAD SHIFTED, AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT MOST COMMON REASONS WERE: (1) INSUFFICIENT CLAIM TO JEWISH NATIONALITY, (2) PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MIXED MARRIAGES, AND (3) SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

2. ON TACTICAL QUESTION RELATING TO HEARING, WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT IN BEST POSITION TO GAUGE PROBABLE REACTION OF CONGRESS, ISRAELIS AND DOMESTIC JEWISH ORGANIZATION TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ISRAELI RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE US DETAILED INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS WHOM ISRAELI AUTHORITIES BELIEVE ARE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING ROMANIA. AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN PAST, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT TIME TO MOVE FROM CRITICISM OF ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE BASED ON

WIDELY VARYING, UNPROVABLE NUMBERS GAME TO CONCRETE
APPROACH OF CONFRONTING ROMANIANS WITH SPECIFIC INSTANCES
OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FRUSTRATED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO
EMIGRATE. ONLY BY ENLISTING ISRAELI ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING
THESE NAMES CAN WE SECURE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EFFORT
IN WHICH THEY SHOULD HAVE PRIMARY INTEREST.

3. HAVING FAILED UNTIL NOW TO PERSUADE ISRAELIS TO PLAY
THEIR PROPER ROLE, WE SEE MERIT IN ADDRESSING QUESTION
FRONTALLY IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARING. OUR SUGGESTION IS THAT
PORTION OF COUNSELOR'S TESTIMONY DEALING WITH EMIGRATION
TO ISRAEL INCLUDE PARAGRAPH WITH FOLLOWING LINE OF
ARGUMENTATION:

A. QUESTION OF ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION
TO ISRAEL IS OBSCURED BY UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING NUMBERS
OF ROMANIANS JEWS WHO ACTUALLY WISH TO DEPART. AT TIMES
THE DEBATE OVER THE CONFLICTING FIGURES HAVE DIVERTED ATTENTION
FROM THE CENTRAL HUMANITARIAN ISSUE.

B. IN THIS SITUATION WE BELIEVE BEST APPROACH IS
TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON SECURING IMPROVED ROMANIAN
PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE SOLUTION OF IDENTIFIED HUMANITARIAN
CASES.

C. WE HAVE THEREFORE SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF ISRAELI
AUTHORITIES TO IDENTIFY NAMES OF ROMANIAN JEWS WHO DESIRE
TO LEAVE ISRAEL BUT HAVE THUS FAR BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO.

D. UNTIL NOW THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RESPONDED
TO OUR SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

E. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT AN ACCEPT-
ABLE LEVEL OF EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA TO ISRAEL IS THE PRINCIPAL
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CONCERN OF THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION
THAT CURRENT AND PAST RATES OF EMIGRATION REFLECT THE ONGOING
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

4. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED SILINS-VIETS LETTER AND WOULD THEREFORE
PREFER TO WITHHOLD OUR RESPONSE CONCERNING INTERVENTION ON
BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.
BARNES

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